international financial institution Loans for humanitarian purposes by international financial institutions were exempted from the restrictions. On June 25, 1998, the World Bank had approved a loan of US $ 543 million for projects in India designed to meet basic human needs. Loans from international financial institutions for meeting basic human needs continue to be available to India.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Does not arise.

Vietnamese President's Visit to India

2360. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Vietnamese president Tran Duc Luong recently visited India and held talks with Indian leaders in New Delhi;

(b) if so, what are the details of discussion and outcome of talks; and

(c) the details of the broad fields in which both countries have agreed to work for closer cooperation?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The President of Vietnam held talks without President, Vice-President and Prime Minister. Minister of Human Resource Development & Science & Technology, Finance Minister and External Affairs Minister, Leader of the Opposition and other political leaders called on him. The two sides exchanged views on bilateral, regional and global issues of mutual interest and while expressing satisfaction at the expanding cooperation in various fields, agreed to strive to enhance it further. The Vietnamese reaffirmed their support to India's candidature as a permanent member in an expanded Security Council. South-South cooperation was reiterated as a major plank of our foreign policy, a Credit Agreement, a Process Verbal for Exchange of Instruments of Ratification of the Bilateral Investment Promotion and Protection Agreement signed in 1997, an MOU on Setting Up of Software Human Resource Development

Centres in Vietnam, and an Agreement on Cooperation between the Foreign Service Institute of India and the Institute of Foreign Relations of Vietnam were signed.

Bringing Back the Criminals from Gulf Countries

2361. SHRI BRATIN SENGUPTA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) what are Government's plans to nab notorious criminals who have taken shelter in different Gulf countries in the recent years;

(b) at what level Government have taken up the negotiations with the concerned countries in this regard;

(c) whether the negotiations have been completed; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor and by when all the formalities would be completed in order to bring the criminals back to our country?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) (i) Government makes every effort to bring back to India fugitive criminals, who have taken shelter in foreign countries including Gulf Countries. If any fugitive criminal is suspected to have absconded to a foreign country, a request for search and arrest of such wanted fugitive criminal is made by the concerned State/Union Territory/Central Investigating Agency to the Interpol Wing of CBI. CBI (Interpol) forwards such requests, along with necessary documents, to the Interpol Secretariat General (IPSG) for issuance of Red Corner Notices (RCN) against the wanted fugitives.

(ii) On receipt of information regarding the arrest/detention of the wanted fugitive criminal by a member country of the Interpol, the concerned investigating agency is requested by CBI (Interpol) to prepare extradition documents for extradition of the fugitive criminal to India. The extradition request is then forwarded to the Government of the concerned country through diplomatic channels.

(b) to (d) (i) India has signed Extradion Treaties with 11 countries including UAE among the Gulf countries. The absence of Extradition Treaty/arrangement is, however, nor a technical bar for making a request for extradition.